

Office of Teaching & Learning Support *presents...*

Common Core Implementation Team (CCIT)



The Blast!

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you, NJ educators! Although May 2-6 is National Teacher Appreciation Week, my team and I are grateful *every* week of the year that teaching is your career choice.

May also brings us National Physical Fitness Month. Among the resources we've included, you'll see ideas to celebrate fitness with your students and colleagues as spring weather takes hold.

In the division, we are also celebrating a new addition to our team. The Office of Educational Technology, directed by Larry Cocco, offers a rich array of digital resources to support your instructional practices. Learn more about the office in our "highlight" this month.

We know that each month of the school year brings its own challenges and rewards. Please feel free to [contact](#) us with ideas to help us provide stronger supports for your teaching and learning.

See you in June!

Kimberley Harrington,
Chief Academic Officer
Division of Teaching and Learning



Table of Contents

[Division HIGHLIGHT](#)[Division News](#)[NJ Standards](#)[NJCORE.org](#)[ELA](#)[Mathematics](#)[STEM](#)[Career Readiness](#)[Science](#)[Social Studies](#)[NJDOE Assessments](#)[Further Reading](#)[Misc Opportunities](#)



Division Highlight [\(top\)](#)

This month, The Blast highlights the **Office of Educational Technology (OET)**, led by **Larry Cocco**. The OET vision is to drive innovation through the development and implementation of progressive policies, strategies and practices that effectively integrate educational technology throughout all learning environments. Office staff administer and support Standard 8, Technology, which includes Standard 8.1, Educational Technology, as well as Standard 8.2, Technology Education. OET-created Standard 8 resources include Classroom Application Documents ([CADs](#)) and the Standard Eight Assessment Toolkit ([S8AT](#)).

The 2014 Technology Standard was implemented this school year and includes for the first time a strand for Computational Thinking: [Programming](#). Students will learn the foundations of organizational thinking and computer coding in order to understand how the systems and devices that we use in our digital world operate and how they might be improved or new ones be created.

The office facilitates the statewide implementation of Standard 8 as part of the Digital Learning New Jersey ([DLNJ](#)) initiative. DLNJ also includes Future Ready Schools – New Jersey ([FRS-NJ](#)), a digital learning recognition program in partnership with NJSBA and NJIT. The FRS-NJ goal is to promote a systemic approach to change through a cycle of transformation where districts envision, plan, implement and assess continually with student learning as the focal point for their aligned efforts. This will lead to students' engaging in the learning process in new ways and utilizing digital learning tools and 21st century skills.

Another DLNJ element is NJTRAx Digital Learning (NJTRAx DL) launched in January 2016 to support schools in planning for and implementing digital learning policies, environments and strategies. It is a foundational data element of the Future Ready Schools – New Jersey program, and has already gained attention from national organizations interested in making the system available to other states.

Other elements of Digital Learning NJ include the following:

- Technical support and guidance for district and school planning and development of [Three-year Technology Plans](#);

- The Future Ready NJ grant which supports increasing the capacity for digital learning readiness through mentoring partnerships between two LEAs;
- Facilitation of a statewide cooperative broadband [purchasing initiative](#) for faster internet speeds available to schools at lower costs (which to date has saved NJ schools \$89 million);
- Promotion of LEA and regional activities to further the evolution of digital learning classroom instruction, such as Maker Fests/Maker Spaces (i.e. [Jersey Shore Maker Fest](#)) and educational computer programming events (i.e. [Hackathon BCA](#));
- Participation in the NJ Collaborative Education Team (NJCET), continually developing resources and professional learning opportunities to assist districts in implementing the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework;
- Overseeing the E-rate program that assists schools and libraries in obtaining high-speed internet access and telecommunications at affordable rates;
- Working to define and fulfill the educational technology requirements of *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* Title IV-A;
- Coordinating the Title II, Part A federal grant including budgeting, grant monitoring, field support and preparations for *ESSA*.

The office also supports the Office of Assessments in assisting NJ schools with technology readiness for PARCC. The OET Technology Readiness Unit is on call during test administration and participates in PARCC-related planning activities during the year.

For more information about Office of Educational Technology activities, or to discuss collaborating with OET staff, please contact **Larry Cocco at (609) 633-1693**.





Division News ([top](#))

Advisory Council for Teaching and Learning

Applications to serve on the division's Advisory Council for Teaching and Learning are now under review. Thirty (30) educators will be invited to participate, and those selected will be sent notices by the end of May. Council meetings will be held quarterly, starting in June.

Blended Online Learning Modules for PLCs

The statewide launch of the [Blended Online Learning Modules for PLCs](#) begins in late May. The department will facilitate several training opportunities which were listed in a recent [Broadcast memo](#). Please [register](#) for one of the six half-day training sessions located in the northern, central and southern regions of the state for a general overview. A two-day summer institute will provide more in depth information about the modules.



PARCC Data Conversations around the State

The division is presenting 12 regional sessions on **PARCC Data: Conversations That Drive the Cycle of Teaching and Learning**. Participants will review their respective PARCC student data, discuss how the Evidence Statements reports can be used in districts, and highlight tools for communicating with parents and other stakeholders. Register online for a morning or afternoon session below:

Rowan College at Gloucester County:

[May 12](#): 8:30am-11:30am OR [May 12](#): 12:30pm-3:30pm
[May 25](#): 8:30am-11:30am OR [May 25](#): 12:30pm-3:30pm

Morris County Public Safety Training Academy:

[May 20](#): 8:30am-11:30am OR [May 20](#): 12:30pm-3:30pm
[May 27](#): 8:30am-11:30am OR [May 27](#): 12:30pm-3:30pm

NJDOE Learning Resource Center in Trenton:

[June 9](#): 9:00am-12:00pm OR [June 9](#): 1:00pm-4:00pm
[June 16](#): 9:00am-12:00pm OR [June 16](#): 1:00pm-4:00pm



NJ Standards Review Update ([top](#))

At the NJ State Board of Education meeting on May 4, Kimberley Harrington and her team will present the final recommendations for revisions to current ELA and mathematics standards. Visit the [NJ Standards Review site](#) for the latest information.



NJCORE Update ([top](#))

Have you [NJCORE'd](#) today?! Create an account and start searching for resources to use in your classroom or for your own professional learning. Visit the [Featured Content](#) toolkit to see what's new!



May Celebrations of Physical Education & Fitness ([top](#))

National Physical Education & Sport Week, May 1-7, celebrates the value of physical education and physical activity for students and adults. It also serves as the kickoff to National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, sponsored by the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition.

For instructional resources related to fitness, visit SHAPE America's website for the [Teacher's Toolbox](#) and [Activities and Ideas](#), as well as the May [National Health Observances](#) website. For information relevant to NJ events and state health and physical education standards, see the NJ Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance ([NJAPERD](#)) website.

Resources for NJ Academic Standards

Be sure to visit [NJ CORE](#) for these and other newly uploaded resources!

**English Language Arts (top):****MyStorybook for Young Writers**

The [My Storybook](#) website provides resources for K-6 students to create their own online stories or read those authored by others. Basic use of the service is free, although some services are available for a fee.

Scholastic Lessons Aligned to ELA Standards

A wide range of lesson plans with related reading passages from literary and informational text are available at this [Scholastic website](#). After signing in, access to many standards-aligned resources is free.

**Mathematics (top)****New Resources from Zearn**

The Zearn [website](#) combines personalized digital lessons with targeted small group instruction. Sign up for free access to the site's lessons and materials, or scroll down on the home page to "[test drive](#)" [lessons](#) without the sign-in requirement.

Stanford University's Youcubed Resources

The Stanford Graduate School of Education offers the [Youcubed.org](#) website for math instruction resources at all grade levels. One example is the [Week of Inspirational Math](#) with five lessons (one for each school day) including math tasks and videos aligned to math standards. A simple log-in process is required to access the free lesson plans and materials.

**Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) (top)****2017 Governor's STEM Scholars Program**

[Applications](#) for the 2017 Class of Governor's STEM Scholars are **due May 27, 2016**. The program gives an introduction to NJ's STEM economy through conferences, field trips, internships and a research project.

Teaching Tools for STEM Website

This [STEM Teaching Tools website](#) has been set up to provide tools for teaching STEM subjects, with a focus on the Next Generation Science Standards. Visitors can access archived articles, and sign up for the free "[Field Notes](#)" [monthly newsletter](#).

**Career Readiness (top)****New Jersey Awarded New Skills for Youth Grant**

New Jersey was awarded a \$100,000 six-month [New Skills for Youth](#) grant to develop a career readiness action plan to enhance career and technical education (CTE) programs. The Office of Career Readiness is using the grant to better align CTE programs with key industries identified by the Department of Labor as providing growth opportunities, such as healthcare, biopharmaceuticals, and advanced manufacturing.

**Science (top)****Enhancing Classroom Science Discussions**

[Talk Science](#) PD is a blend of web-based study, opportunities to try ideas in the classroom, and face-to-face study group meetings designed to help teachers increase the effectiveness of classroom science discussions. Participants can practice nine strategies that support productive discussion.

NGSS April 2016 Newsletter

Look on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) website for the current [NOW newsletter](#).

NJDOE Science Workshops for 2016

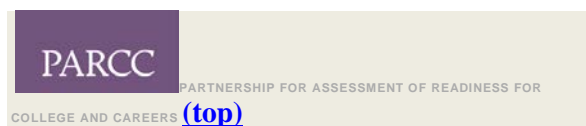
A series of regional professional development sessions are scheduled to support teachers as they translate model science curriculum units into local curriculum. Register at the [Calendar of Events](#).

NJDOE K-12 Model Science Curriculum

The K-12 [model science curriculum](#) is now available on the NJDOE website. The model science curriculum bundles all science performance expectations into courses, then units of instruction. Purposeful integrations between and among science, technology, engineering, ELA, and mathematics are central to each unit.

**[Social Studies \(top\)](#)****Primary Source Sets from DPLA**

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) [Primary Source Sets](#) help students develop critical thinking skills by exploring topics in history, literature and culture through primary sources. The sets draw online materials from libraries, archives, and museums, including letters, photographs, oral histories and video clips. Each set includes a topic overview, primary sources, links to related resources and a teaching guide.

**NJDOE Assessments Webpage**

Visit the NJDOE Assessment [webpage](#) for current information about PARCC and other state assessments. Resources for districts, educators and parents can also be accessed on this page.

**[Further Reading \(top\)](#)****NJDOE's NJ Educator Connection**

The *NJ Educator Connection* is the NJDOE newsletter for teachers covering timely and relevant information. Subscribe to receive the newsletter by e-mail, and find archived and current issues at the [website](#).

**[Misc. Opportunities \(top\)](#)****Level of Teaching Innovation Digital Age Survey**

The Level of Teaching Innovation (LoTi) Digital Age [Survey](#) generates a detailed, personalized, digital age profile. Each participant receives a free report with recommended resources. The survey is free for all NJ public school educators through **June 30, 2017**.

Before you go...

How else can we help? [Contact](#) us!



Know someone who needs The Blast? Send them to our [Blast sign-up page](#)!



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See you in June!